

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. CR 15-0409 WHA

Plaintiff,

v.

**SCHEDULING ORDER
FOR CRIMINAL CASE**

LESLIE MCNEAL,

Defendant.

Pursuant to Local Rule 17.1-1, this order sets a schedule for the case to promote a fair and expeditious trial and pretrial of this case.

1. This case will be tried to a jury commencing at **7:30 A.M. ON APRIL 4, 2016**. The final pretrial conference will be at **2:00 P.M. ON MARCH 30, 2016**. The remainder of this order sets the schedule leading up to these dates.

2. All motions must be brought by **JANUARY 12, 2016**, except motions *in limine*, which will be heard at the final pretrial conference. All discovery must be produced by **DECEMBER 23, 2015**.

3. Rule 16(a)(1)(F) requires the government to allow inspection and copying of tests and experiments upon a defendant's request. Subpart (G) further requires the government to give the defense a written summary of opinion testimony to be used in its case-in-chief upon a defendant's request. This must include not only the opinions to be offered but the "bases and reasons for those opinions" and the qualifications of the experts. Reciprocally, if a defendant requests either of the foregoing, the defendant is obligated to provide the same items to the

1 government upon request. Although the rule does not establish any deadlines for such
2 disclosures, the Advisory Committee Notes state that the disclosures are intended to provide the
3 opponent with a fair opportunity to test expert trial testimony, to minimize surprise, and to
4 reduce the need for continuances (*see, e.g.*, the 1993 Amendment notes). The note refers to the
5 need for a fair opportunity to investigate the “merits” of the testimony as well as the
6 “qualifications” of the expert. Rule 16(d)(2) authorizes preclusion for a failure to comply,
7 among other remedies.

8 In order to achieve the objectives of the rule, it is necessary that sufficient lead
9 time be built into the schedule while recognizing the competing demands on counsel. In order
10 to trigger the disclosure obligations, defense counsel must make a written request within the
11 meaning of Rule 16. This must be done within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** of the appearance
12 of defense counsel so that the government will be on notice of the need to disclose. If a timely
13 request is made, then, unless a different schedule is set, the government must supply all required
14 expert reports and summaries at least **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the final pretrial conference
15 and, upon government request, the defense must supply its expert reports and summaries at least
16 **SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS** before the final pretrial conference. This will usually allow adequate
17 time to review the material and to bring motions *in limine* as well as to prepare for the trial
18 itself.

19 4. Please remember that Rule 16(a)(1)(G) and Rule 16(b)(1)(C) require disclosure
20 not only of the opinions but also of “the bases and reasons for those opinions.” as well as the
21 witness’s qualifications. Supplemental disclosures at the eleventh hour cannot automatically
22 cure earlier deficient disclosures. Rule 16(d)(2) authorizes several alternatives, including
23 preclusion, for inadequate or late or non-existent disclosures.

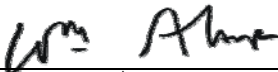
24 5. As for *non-expert* disclosures, Rule 16 requires both the government and the
25 defense to disclose certain materials. Again, Rule 16(d)(2) authorizes preclusion as a sanction.
26 All counsel must comply with Rule 16, Local Rule 16-1 and the *Brady* rule. Both sides must
27 make their disclosures sufficiently in advance of the final pretrial conference so that all counsel
28

1 will be able to prepare to meet the evidence and to raise any issues pertaining to it at the final
2 pretrial conference.

3 6. For the final pretrial conference, please comply with Local Rule 17.1-1. All
4 government exhibits should be identified by trial exhibit number for the case-in-chief in an
5 exhibit list submitted for the conference. All defense exhibits for its case-in-chief should
6 likewise be identified by trial exhibit number in an exhibit list, at least to the extent the exhibits
7 are required to be disclosed under Rule 16(b). All motions *in limine* must be served and filed at
8 least **FOURTEEN DAYS** before the conference with oppositions and replies filed as per
9 Local Rule 47-2.

10
11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

12
13 Dated: November 17, 2015.

14 
15 _____
16 WILLIAM ALSUP
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28